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India - Nepal Relations

Nepal is an important neighbour of India and occupies special significance in its foreign policy because of the geographic, historical, cultural and economic linkages or ties that span centuries. The two countries not only share an open border and unhindered movement of people but they also have close bounds through marriages and family ties. The India Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal. Nepal shares border with 5 Indian states - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar. Hence an important point of cultural and economic exchange. India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments. Government of India provides development assistance to Nepal focusing on creation of infrastructure at the grass-root level. Bilateral defence cooperation includes assistance to Nepal's Army and its modernization through provision of equipment and training.

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There have been initiatives to promote people-to-people contacts in the area of art and culture, academics and media with different local bodies of Nepal. Huge number of Indians live in Nepal including businessmen, doctors, engineers and labourers.

Internal security is a major concern for India; Indo-Nepal border is virtually open and lightly policed which is exploited by terrorist outfits etc.

With its immense strategic relevance in the Indian context as Indian security concern, stable and secure Nepal is one requisite which India can't afford to overlook.